

The Perfect Human Figure.

Baron von Humboldt, who had studied men and women in every quarter of the habitable globe, used to say that the notion that the female figure was of better proportions and more graceful outline than that of the male was a delusion. Women did not believe it, averred the great scientist, and men only said so out of natural gallantry. Humboldt was right on a great many points concerning which his views were scouted by the wise men of his day, and perhaps he was equally correct in thus attributing superior physical beauty to men. But since his time nobody has ventured to urge or defend his theory, and it has naturally fallen into disrepute. Besides, the modern world really has no use for "pretty men" as such. They may be counter-jumpers and animated tailors' blocks, and infest at will the public promenades and places of general resort, but the present masculine fashion favors the strong, square-built, quick-witted, and agile fellow who never thinks for an instant whether he conforms to the model of the Apollo Belvedere or not.

With the softer sex the question of form is quite another affair. The possibilities of dress have been developed to such an extent that within reasonable limitations a woman may take on pretty much whatever outward shape seems best and most becoming for her. While the creations of the modiste have stimulated a taste for the beautiful, they have ministered also to the love of admiration and harmless instinctive vanity appertaining to every feminine nature. They have also created ideals of contour that are decidedly at variance with classical ideas of perfection; and these departures from the antique standard have been to many theorists and a few otherwise sensible women a source of profound disquiet. There has been, it is affirmed, a departure from the "classic figure" that is as disfiguring as it is reprehensible; and in many quarters are pleadings more or less cogent for the return to the lines of beauty wrought by Phidias and Cleomenes long before physical distortion became a fashionable art.

American maids and matrons have thus been led to study the requirements and measurements of the perfect female figure, with results, if current draperies correctly indicate, altogether distasteful to the classicists, who point with pride to the master works of the ancient sculptors as embodying the beautiful in feminine contour. A living counterpart of the Venus de Medici would be less than five feet in height, while wearing a No. 25 corset and No. 7 shoe. This, to the woman of to-day, would mean hopeless clumsiness. The *Popular Science Monthly*, in a recent issue, descends to particulars, and affirms that to meet the requirements of a classic figure the proper dimensions should be: height, 5 feet 4 inches; bust, 32 inches; waist, 24 inches; arm pit to waist, 9 inches. This is further improved upon by giving the proportions of a "queenly" figure, thus: height, 5 feet 5 inches; bust, 31 inches; waist, 24 inches; over the hips 36 inches. These figures are interesting only as they illustrate the vagaries and contortions of the purely scientific mind when floundering through the uncongential realm of taste. It will be difficult to persuade ladies of an inquiring turn that the scientific constructor of these classic proportions has not been endeavoring to perpetrate a solemn joke upon the select circle of literary females whom he addresses. The "queenliness" of a tall woman with a hollow chest and an exceedingly thick waist is an attribute likely to be discovered only by an observer whose head is perpetually among the stars.—*Philadelphia Record*.

Jumbo, the Great Elephant.

Jumbo was about twenty-five years old. He was born on the coast of Africa in the latter part of the year 1860. His first appearance in polite society was as a baby elephant, being captured when about a year old and taken to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. There he was kept three years, and was then given in exchange to the London Zoological Gardens of London. He arrived at the British capital in 1865, and remained there for seventeen years, the most favored pet of the whole kingdom. Early in 1882 Mr. P. T. Barnum purchased him for \$10,000, but lawsuits increased the cost to \$30,000 before he could be brought away from England. The news of his sale caused much grief and consternation among the children in London, and even some of the older Britons, including the famous Mr. Ruskin, entered a protest against the transfer. Jumbo was so attached to his home at the London Gardens that it was very difficult to persuade him to leave it, but after several trials he was at last enticed on board ship. He arrived in this country in April, 1882, and had been engaged in visiting the various large cities of the land from that time until his death. The weight of this huge animal, the largest elephant ever known in captivity, was seven and a half tons, and he stood eleven and a half feet high. The circumstances of his death were as follows: He had been exhibited at St. Thomas, Ont., September 15, 1885, and was being led along the track with Tom Thumb, the baby elephant, to be loaded into their respective cars, when a heavy freight train, running at the rate of forty miles an hour, bore down upon them. As soon as Jumbo saw the train he made a rush for Tom Thumb, and, grasping him with his trunk, threw him across the tracks as easily as if he had been a kitten. Jumbo then tried to save himself, but it was too late, and he was crushed to death between the engine of the train and the cars upon the siding. The poor beast's devotion to the younger elephant was unfortunately wasted, for Tom Thumb's leg was broken, and he had to be shot the next day.—*Inter Ocean*.

Experiments in Irrigation.

Some valuable experiments in irrigation have recently been carried out in India. Several adjoining plots of land, similarly situated, and similar in all respects as possible, were planted with wheat, barley, and peas, and subject to different treatment in the matter of irrigation, one series being irrigated once a month, another once a fortnight, a third once a week, and a fourth not at all. As might have been expected, the plots not irrigated at all produced the worst crops; but the result in the other cases was certainly curious, if not altogether contrary to general expectation. In all cases the plots of land irrigated once a month bore the heaviest crops; next came the plots irrigated every two weeks, and then those irrigated once a week. With monthly irrigating, crops averaging 53½ bushels per acre were harvested, whereas the ordinary crop in the same locality was but 14½ bushels. These experiments, besides proving the value of irrigation in quadrupling the yield, also afford a valuable hint in the cultivation of plants generally, for they seem to show that—with cereals, at any rate—it is not the frequent application of water that is required, but its abundant application at considerable intervals.

Science and Agriculture.

A Scotch farmer writes to a London journal: "During the past few years I have visited a good many agricultural shows, but I have observed no improvement in stock. I speak from a farmer's point of view, which is a paying point. In the feeding and rearing of stock we have reached the limit with our present knowledge. No progress in this direction is to be expected. There is, however, much to be done in the application of machinery. Every year brings with it some improvement, chiefly, I regret to say, from America. There is also a field almost uncultivated rich in stores of knowledge. We have had centuries of practical farming, but we are no nearer the solution of such problems as rinderpest, braxy, finger-and-toe, and clover sickness, the assimilation of nitrogen by plants, the turnip fly, and other insects injurious to the farmer. If the learned people who are to assemble in a few days at Aberdeen, could throw any light on these questions, they would be conferring a great benefit on farmers. It is a pity that there is no section for papers and discussion on agricultural science. We shall hear a good deal about germs, atoms, molecules, the heat of the sun, and the proper rotation of crops for the moon, but I should like to know if our rotation of crops has any scientific basis. We have no unfriendly feeling toward the farmers in the moon. On the contrary, if we could get at them we should offer to fight them. Whatever may be the case with English farmers, every intelligent Scotch farmer gladly welcomes all knowledge which is likely to be of service to him in his work. The appreciation of some lectures recently delivered in Aberdeenshire by Mr. Buckmaster, from South Kensington, shows that farmers are fully alive to the importance of more scientific knowledge in farming. Some of us are rather too old to begin the study of chemistry, and, anxious though we may be for our boys to learn a little agricultural science, there is nowhere for them to learn it except at an expense far beyond the means of an ordinary farmer. We can get Latin for our boys in any quantity and in every quality, in almost all schools, but science nowhere. My boys leave school at about fifteen or sixteen, utterly ignorant of all natural phenomena, and I fear the secondary schools we are to have in Scotland, if not narrowly watched, will only perpetuate this darkness and ignorance."

Talked His Arm Off.

A bore in one of the Omaha hotels one evening, caught the laugh in a style he richly merited, after he had wearied a dozen or more gentlemen sitting around by his loud and incessant gabble. He had hauled his chair about the room, delivering his ideas at the closest obtainable range, and was just closing the list upon a demure-looking gentleman buried studiously in a newspaper. The quiet man had lost his right arm and wore a false, gloved hand. The nuisance planted his chair immediately in front of him and plunged into one of his inane harangues. The annoyance was tolerated for a few minutes, when, with a stealthy movement, the quiet man unfurled the attachments of the false arm and it dropped to the floor. The garrulous bore checked his tongue aghast, and with feigned horror his victim started to his feet, exclaiming: "Man, you have ruined me; you have talked my arm off!" Amid screams of laughter the bore leaped from his seat and fled.—*Omaha Bee*.

State Dinners.

The expression "state dinners" appears often quoted in society papers. What other state is referred to except the state of exasperation into which a man is thrown by a dozen mussy little dishes, we can not tell. We call attention to the fact that in London it is no longer considered good form to serve an endless variety of courses. Guests ought not to be kept at table over an hour and a half when the service is prompt. As most of our large dinners are served by caterers, the custom has prevailed of dragging them out as long as possible; for the longer the menu the longer the bill. Let some of our society people start a reform.—*New York Sun*.

Two young ladies were singing a duet in a concert room. A stranger, who had heard better performances, turned to one of the guests and said: "Does not that young lady in white sing awfully?" "Excuse me," replied the other, "I do not feel at liberty to express my sentiments; she is my sister." "I beg your pardon, sir," said the first speaker; "I mean the lady in blue." "You are perfectly right there," replied the gentleman; "she is my wife."

THE world is said to be growing wiser and better with a steadily increasing ratio, and yet an occasional hole in the toe of a sock will be likely to create more or less discomfort and ill-feeling for some time to come.

QUIDA claims that where one man kills himself for love of woman a hundred others go over the dam on account of their debts. The young woman speaks wisely.

A woman who claims to know says it takes more strategy to marry off a family of girls than it does to secure reelection to Congress.

The Increase of Insanity.

Boston reports 290 insane, says Mr. T. B. Sanborn, not 75 of whom will recover. This is frightful. Insanity has increased forty per cent. in a decade, and most of the cases are incurable. Whatever the cause may be, the fact remains that "Urie Acid" blood sets the brain on fire, destroys its tissues, and then comes some form of fatal insanity. Nothing is so pitiable as a mind diseased. Most brain troubles begin in the stomach; then if the blood is filled with uric acid, caused by failure of kidney action, and the consequent destruction of the blood life—albumen—you have the fuel and the flame and a brain in full blaze as when one raves, or in slow combustion, as in milder forms of insanity. Rev. E. D. Hopkins, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., a few years ago was confined in an asylum. He took a terrible cold while sitting in putting out a fire in a neighbor's burning house, and for twenty-five years that cold was slowly filling his blood with uric acid, and finally the deadly work was done. The case looked hopeless, but he had used Warner's safe cure and recovered. That was three years ago, and having ridden his blood of all surplus uric acid, he has remained well until this day.

Old Newspapers.

The *Indiana Farmer* having stated that the first newspaper ever published west of Cincinnati was the *Vincennes Sun* in 1806, the next the *Missouri Gazette*, of St. Louis, in 1808, afterward merged into the present *Republican*, and the third the *Illinois Gazette*, at Kankakee, Ill., C. F. Clarkson, in the *Des Moines Register*, comments as follows: There are two slight errors in the foregoing paragraph from the *Indiana Farmer*, and they may as well be corrected while men are living who can do it. The *Vincennes Sun* was commenced by Elihu Stout, in 1804. And the *Missouri Gazette*, the first paper published at St. Louis, Louisiana (now Missouri), was started July 12, 1808. In the year 1800 Congress divided the Northwest Territory and established the Territory of Indiana, including all of what is now Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the seat of government was established at Vincennes, and Gen. Wm. H. Harrison was appointed Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. At that time there were about 9,000 white inhabitants in all that vast Territory, and the Indian title was extinguished to but a small part of the Territory. But Gen. Harrison went to Vincennes, and soon found it necessary to have a man with a few printing materials to print the various documents of the Territory. About 1803 he induced a young man by the name of Stout to go there and occupy one corner of the blockhouse with a press and type, not with the idea of printing a newspaper, but of job printing. The writer has talked with General Harrison and also with Mr. Stout about the first printing and the commencement of the first paper in the Northwest Territory. Some time in the latter part of the year 1804 Mr. Stout, probably being out of employment, published the first number of the *Vincennes Sun*. It was a small concern, and was published semi-occasionally for the next nine years, during which time the inhabitants there were in constant dread of their lives from hostile Indians, constantly stirred up by British agents and the turbulence of Tecumseh and the Prophet. Most of the time, except when the soldiers were in camp there, the inhabitants had to keep their blockhouses constantly barricaded, so a very limited edition of the *Sun* could have been circulated if printed. But it was so irregular in its publication that the *Indiana Farmer* would be safe in saying it was started in 1806, or even in 1810, or really not until after the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1813.

But the writer has pretty clear evidence of the date of the commencement of the *Missouri Gazette*, as he has before him as he writes, No. 3, dated July 26, 1808, and as it was a weekly, would make the date of commencement July 12, 1808, by Joseph Charles.

It was the impression of Mr. Stout that he published a paper at Vincennes before one was started in Cincinnati. But it must have been but a short time before, if at all. We have before us a copy of the *Liberty Hall*, published at Cincinnati, June 3, 1816, and it is a weekly paper, and this is No. 35 of the twelfth volume, which makes it at that time eleven years and thirty-five weeks old, which would fix the date of its commencement about December, 1805. Probably there may be older men, or older records, that may correct these dates. But history requires their being put upon record correctly now.

Canine Intelligence.

"It is truly amusing," says the *London Truth*, "to see the assembled wisacres of the British Institution making discoveries in the canine intelligence, which must have been common knowledge to dog-fanciers in the days of Nimrod. Sir John Lubbock's learned poodle is a fool beside a little performing mongrel which I have lately seen at one of the south-coast watering-places. Any spectator was invited to show this little animal his watch, when the dog, after studying the face for a moment, would proceed to tell the time by selecting the proper figures from a row of Arabic (not Roman) numerals placed before him. Again, Prof. Flower's eminently Scotch tyke, who refused to go for a walk on the 'Sabbath,' is very little ahead of the dog whom most of us have seen or heard of who loses all desire to go out Sunday morning upon being shown a prayer-book. In the same way I have heard of a university dog—probably not a unique specimen—who, though always frantic if resulting from pulmonary complaints, Caswell, Hazard & Co., proprietors, New York. Sold by druggists.

After suffering with rheumatism for several years, I was persuaded to try Althophor, and am pleased to say that I am cured. I cheerfully recommend it. C. L. Wetmore, of Thompson & Wetmore, 151 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Best, easiest to use, and cheapest. Pilo's Remedy for Catarrh. By druggists. 50c.

Get Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners applied to new boots and shoes before you wear them out. The Fraser Axle Grease is the very best. A trial will prove we are right.

Is afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it. 25c.

Cases for Rejoicing.

CINCINNATI.—The *Times-Star* says: "A remarkable discovery made last winter is attracting widespread interest. As it involves a most important question, that of public health, it is being discussed by eminent physicians and public men. It is shown conclusively that throat and lung troubles can be cured without resorting to the use of morphia or opium—especially dangerous in the case of children, as arresting development and poisoning the system. The Governor of Maryland and all the officials of that State endorse the remedy; the State chemist of Delaware pronounces it the purest and most effective, and hospitals and charitable institutions in Philadelphia and other cities use it with remarkable results. The remedy, which is only twenty-five cents a bottle, is Red Star Cough Cure. It is purely vegetable; it contains no poison or narcotics, and is a positive cure."

The Fish.

Rather more than five years ago, one of the vessels employed by the United States Fish Commission dredged up from the depths of the ocean, about one hundred miles east of Cape Hatteras, specimens of a fish which had never been seen before. The discoverers called it the tile fish, from its extraordinary shape. Until quite lately other deep-sea dredgers in the same neighborhood have frequently found the fish; but it appears that since the beginning of the present year the species has, in some way, been destroyed. In the early summer, scores of ships arriving in New England ports from the South brought news that the surface of the sea over an immense area off Cape Hatteras was covered with dead fish of an uncommon variety. Investigation proved that the dead fish were tile fish, and ever since, although the tile fish has been repeatedly dredged for in its old haunts, not a single specimen has been brought up. Prof. Baird, who has already pointed out that there are many deep-sea fish that cannot survive a variation of four or five degrees of temperature in the waters they inhabit, is of the opinion that a cold current must have penetrated the domain of the unfortunate tile fish, and thus caused the apparent extinction of the race.

A Relic of the Mexican War.

At the breaking out of the Mexican war, Gov. Moorhead, of Kentucky, presented to Gen. Crittenden a silver pen. Gen. Crittenden became an aid to Gen. Taylor, who, while in the field, received a letter from Santa Anna, demanding the surrender of the United States forces. Gen. Taylor at once asked Gen. Crittenden for a pen. Gov. Crittenden handed him the pen which had been given him by Gov. Moorhead, with which Gen. Taylor wrote Santa Anna declining to surrender. At the close of the Mexican war Gen. Crittenden returned the pen to Gov. Moorhead, stating the fact that Gen. Taylor had used it in his reply to Santa Anna. After retaining it for several years, Gov. Moorhead presented the pen to a lady, now residing in Washington, accompanied by a letter giving its history as above stated.

Young Girls.

are at a critical period when they are about maturing and developing into women. The lack of watchfulness at this time may result in six irregularities upon delicate organs and entailing a long list of "female weaknesses." All this may be avoided, and the young woman come through this period clothed in all the beauty and strength of a perfectly healthy organization by the aid of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," prepared especially for female troubles by one of the most successful physicians of the day.

NEVER judge by appearances. A ten-dollar dupe may have a two-dollar salary.—*Texas Siftings*.

During One-third of our time the processes of digestion must go on in our bodies, and if the stomach and bowels do not work, nothing is well. To be dyspeptic is to be miserable; dyspepsia is the foundation of fevers and diseases of the blood, liver, skin and kidneys. Dyspepsia invariably yields to the virtues of Dr. Walker's CALIFORNIA VINEGAR BITTERS.

PEOPLE who live in gas-houses had better not throw squibs.—*Texas Siftings*.

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Our readers will notice the advertisement of the Hotchkiss Carriage Works, of Syracuse, N. Y., in its inner column. This firm have the most complete and best regulated factory in the East, having all the latest machinery used in that business, and possess the best possible facilities for manufacturing first-class vehicles, consisting of two-seated Carriages, two and three seated spring wagons, Timken, Brewster, Elliptic, and other styles. Builders, Cutters, and Repairers. This firm also make a specialty of a light two-seated wagon for one horse. They use the best material in the construction of their vehicles, and sell them at very low prices, and warrant them, and we advise our readers, before buying a vehicle, to correspond with this house, as they are very particular to answer all communications and give full information. To dealers they make very liberal concessions in prices.

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Is afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it. 25c.

Russell Hago

is a well-known operator in Wall street, who is generally considered as "up to snuff." Hence, it may have been quite natural that a countryman who reads the papers recently called at his office and asked for a package of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. He discovered his mistake, but he made no mistake in the article called for. This Remedy, when applied with Dr. Pierce's "Nasal Douche," will surely and rapidly eradicate the most aggravated case of catarrh, with all its unpleasant and dangerous accompaniments.

Young lovers ought to make good detective, because they are so inclined to investigate.—*Texas Siftings*.

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